
Mankind, Racial Values and the Racial Prospect by Seth K. Humphrey

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NOTES AND REVIEWS

Mankind, Racial Values and the Racial Prospect. By SETH K. HUMPHREY. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1917. 223 pp.

In the early chapters of the book, Humphrey tries to show that in the long ages that man has been on the earth his physical characteristics have remained practically the same, and that his brain capacity, as seen by his works, has shown little progress. In fact civilization imposes upon man conditions which effectually block—indeed reverse evolution. The only way in which we can hope to improve the race is by applying the principles of racial progress,—what the race needs is brains.

Society must not only discourage the multiplication of the unfit, but must also encourage the increase of the “fit.” The author does not oppose humane methods for the care of defectives, but pleads that philanthropy should not encourage the increase of the “unfit.”

The Aryan race, he claims, is superior to any other, but that it must be kept pure in order to retain its position. Each nationality represents its own characteristics, and these will either remain distinct or be finally mixed with some other and cease to be. In considering the nations at war, he concludes that France and England are both past the zenith of their racial evolution; that Russia never will equal other great nations; that the strength of Germany has come through years of isolation and internal growth. The future world will be in the hands of either—English speaking people or Germans. In the light of facts and prophetic vision the author claims the English speaking peoples, America, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, on account of their youth and racial purity will finally put down the Germans. America, however, is warned concerning her “Melting Pot” idea regarding the Negro and immigrants of inferior racial stock.

The book closes with a chapter on “Eugenics,” and a discussion on the propagation of only the best after the “War.”

C. E. S.